

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 KUALA 03484 200837Z

12

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSC-05

NSCE-00 /032 W

----- 109864

R 200752Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO USIA WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 254

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

PAA CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 3484

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT MY

SUBJ: MUHAMMAD ALI-BUGNER FIGHT

1. WORLD HEAVY WEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULED FOR MERDEKA STADIUM MORNING JULY 1 DEVELOPING AS BIGGEST PUBLIC EVENT IN MALAYSIA IN RECENT YEARS. MEDIA DOMINATED BY PHOTOS, STORIES, FILMS, ETC. NUMEROUS PUBLICITY EVENTS PROMOTED SUCH AS PRIME MINISTER'S RECEPTION FOR FIGHTERS AND OPENING OF BOXING EXHIBIT AT NATIONAL MUSEUM TO WHICH FIGHTERS DONATED MEMORABILIA. BOTH FIGHTERS ACHIEVING EXCELLENT PUBLIC IMAGE AS FRIENDLY, SERIOUS ATHLETES, WITH PREFIGHT BANTERING STRIKING MODERATE CHEERFUL NOTE. FIGHTERS' LAUDATORY COMMENTS ON MALAYSIA AND FIGHT ARRANGEMENTS EARNING THEM ENTHUSIASTIC PUBLIC APPROVAL. SELANGOR CHIEF MINISTER HARUN'S POLITICAL MOTIVES IN ORGANIZING FIGHT HERE SEEM WELL SERVED AS HIS ASSOCIATION WITH BIG SHOW REPORTEDLY CONTRIBUTING TO HIS CAMPAIGN TO BECOME ONE OF UMNO VICE PRESIDENTS IN PARTY ELECTION JUNE 21 (SEE EMBTEL 3357).

2. SITUATION, HOWEVER, IS TAKING ON COMMUNAL OVERTONES.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 KUALA 03484 200837Z

MUSLIM MALAY ADULATION OF BLACK MUSLIM ALI IS

PROVOKING EMOTIONAL CHINESE AND INDIAN SUPPORT OF BUGNER. THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS OF COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES SHOULD ALI LOSE FIGHT AND WE INFORMED THAT POLICE ARE TAKING SECURITY PRECAUTIONS. MILITATING AGAINST COMMUNAL OUTBREAK WILL BE PRESENCE OF KING AND QUEEN AT FIGHT AND HIGH PRICES OF SEATS WHICH WOULD TEND TO KEEP OUT LOWER CLASSES MOST LIKELY TO BECOME INVOLVED IN SUCH INCIDENTS. IN ANY EVENT, MANY PEOPLE PLAN WATCH FIGHT ON TV BECAUSE OF UNEASINESS OVER COMMUNAL SITUATION.

3. COMMENT: GIVEN MALAYSIA'S RECORD OF INTER-COMMUNAL VIOLENCE (LAST DISTURBANCES OCCURRED AFTER MAY 1969 GENERAL ELECTIONS), IT IS PERHAPS INEVITABLE THAT ALI'S PRESENCE SHOULD AROUSE COMMUNAL FEELINGS. RELIGIOUS FERVOR OF MALAYS, COMBINED WITH ALI'S PLAYING UP TO LOCAL SUPPORTERS, HAVE INTRODUCED UNCERTAINTY INTO SPORTING EVENT THAT WILL GAIN WORLDWIDE ATTENTION FOR MALAYSIA. GOM SECURITY AUTHORITIES ARE APPARENTLY AWARE OF RISKS INVOLVED AND WE BELIEVE THEY WILL BE PREPARED TO COPE WITH ANY UNTOWARD INCIDENTS.
DILLON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KUALA03484
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750215-0359
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750631/aaaabcag.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MUHAMMAD ALI-BUGNER FIGHT
TAGS: SCUL, MY, US, (MUHAMMAD ALI), (BUGNER)
To: USIA STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006